

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of evaluating holdings of a portfolio, the method comprising:
 - identifying the holdings that comprise the portfolio;
 - obtaining financial information for each of the holdings;
 - identifying financial metrics that are to be used in evaluating the holdings;
 - determining the values of the financial metrics for each of the holdings;
 - identifying a set of evaluation metrics that that are to be used in evaluating the holdings, wherein the evaluation metrics are comprised of the financial information and the financial metrics;
 - determining for each holding the value of at least some of the evaluation metrics;
 - ranking the holdings of the portfolio for each evaluation metric, wherein an evaluation metric ranking is based upon the holdings' values that have been determined for that evaluation metric;
 - assigning an evaluation metric positional score to each holding that has received an evaluation metric ranking, wherein each evaluation metric positional score is based upon a holding's ranking in an evaluation metric; and
 - generating an overall score for each holding of the portfolio, wherein the overall score for a holding is based upon the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating an overall score for a holding comprises determining an average of the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to a holding are weighted differently and wherein the step of generating an overall score for a holding comprises determining a weighted average of the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

ranking the holdings of the portfolio based upon the overall scores that were assigned to each holdings; and

generating an overall positional score for each holding, wherein a holding's overall positional score is based upon that holding's overall score ranking.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 - establishing an overall positional score threshold; and
 - identifying each holding that has an overall positional score that falls below the overall positional score threshold.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein each evaluation metric is characterized by a time domain aspect and a financial attribute aspect.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the evaluation metrics evaluate a change in an evaluation metric that occurs from a first interval to a second interval.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - identifying a group of evaluation metrics from the set of evaluation metrics;
 - generating a group score for each holding of the portfolio, wherein the group score for a holding is based upon the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding for the group of evaluation metrics that are identified.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of generating a group score for a holding comprises determining an average of the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding for the group of identified evaluation metrics.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to a holding are weighted differently and wherein the step of generating a group score for a holding comprises determining a weighted average of the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding for the group of identified evaluation metrics.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein each evaluation metric is characterized by a time domain aspect and a financial attribute aspect and wherein the group is identified based upon a time domain aspect, a financial attribute aspect or both.
12. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
 - ranking the holdings of the portfolio based upon the group scores that were assigned to each holdings; and
 - generating a group positional score for each holding, wherein a holding's group positional score is based upon that holding's group score ranking.
13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - establishing an evaluation metric positional score threshold; and
 - identifying for each holding the evaluation metrics that are assigned a positional score that falls below the evaluation metric positional score threshold.
14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - establishing an overall score threshold; and
 - identifying each holding that has an overall score that falls below the overall score threshold.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein one financial metric is indicative of a holding's cumulative economic profit over a given period of time.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the cumulative economic profit financial metric accounts for any special charges that a holding may have taken during the given period of time.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the financial metrics include a series of financial metrics that when aggregated together are equal to a holding's total shareholders equity at a given point in time.

18. The method of claim 17, the method for comprising presenting a chart that displays at least one of the series of financial metrics for a holding in comparison to the holding's total shareholders equity.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein the financial metrics include a plurality of financial metrics that dissect a holding's total shareholders equity at a given point in time into an organic shareholders equity financial metric and an unearned shareholders equity financial metric.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the organic shareholders equity financial metric reflects all of the business activities of the holding less cumulative dividends declared over the holding's life less net capital raised from a sale or redemption of the holding's stock.
21. The method of claim 1, wherein one financial metric is capable of determining an amount of cash that a holding would have had available at an end of a time interval had the holding had no change in a level of total debt and had received no net cash from a sale or redemption of the holding's stock.
22. A method of evaluating a holding against holdings of a background portfolio, the method comprising:
 - identifying the holdings that comprise the background portfolio;
 - obtaining financial information for each of the background portfolio holdings;
 - identifying financial metrics that are to be used in evaluating the holding and the background portfolio holdings;
 - determining the values of the financial metrics for each of the background holdings;
 - identifying a set of evaluation metrics that that are to be used in evaluating the holding and the background portfolio holdings, wherein the evaluation metrics are comprised of the financial information and the financial metrics;
 - determining for each of the background portfolio holdings the value of at least some of the evaluation metrics;

ranking the background portfolio holdings for each evaluation metric, wherein an evaluation metric ranking is based upon the background portfolio holdings' values that have been determined for that evaluation metric;

assigning an evaluation metric positional score to each background portfolio holding that has received an evaluation metric ranking, wherein each evaluation metric positional score is based upon a background portfolio holding's ranking in an evaluation metric;

generating an overall score for each of the background portfolio holdings, wherein the overall score for a background portfolio holding is based upon the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that background portfolio holding;

determining the values of the financial metrics for the holding that is to be evaluated against the background portfolio holdings;

determining for the holding that is to be evaluated the value of at least some of the evaluation metrics;

determining an evaluation metric positional score for each evaluation metric value that is determined for the holding that is to be evaluated, wherein an evaluation metric positional score for that holding is determined by comparing that holding's evaluation metric value against the evaluation metric values that were determined for the background portfolio holdings for that evaluation metric; and

generating an overall score for that holding based upon the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein an evaluation metric positional score of the holding that is to be evaluated is determined by comparing that holding's evaluation metric value for a particular evaluation metric against the next highest evaluation metric value that was determined for the background portfolio holdings and the next lowest evaluation metric value that was determined for the background portfolio holdings.
24. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of generating an overall score for the holding that is being evaluated comprises determining an average of the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to a holding are weighted differently and wherein the step of generating an overall score for a holding comprises determining a weighted average of the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding.
26. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
 - ranking the holdings of the background portfolio and the holding that is to be evaluated based upon the overall scores that were assigned to each holdings; and
 - generating an overall positional score for each holding, wherein a holding's overall positional score is based upon that holding's overall score ranking.
27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
 - establishing an overall positional score threshold; and
 - identifying whether the holding that is to be evaluated has an overall positional score that falls below the overall positional score threshold.
28. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
 - identifying a group of evaluation metrics from the set of evaluation metrics;
 - generating a group score for each holding of the background portfolio and the holding that is to be evaluated, wherein the group score for a holding is based upon the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding for the group of evaluation metrics that are identified.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of generating a group score for a holding comprises determining an average of the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding for the group of identified evaluation metrics.
30. The method of claim 28, wherein the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to a holding are weighted differently and wherein the step of generating a group score for

a holding comprises determining a weighted average of the evaluation metric positional scores that are assigned to that holding for the group of identified evaluation metrics.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein each evaluation metric is characterized by a time domain aspect and a financial attribute aspect and wherein the group is identified based upon a time domain aspect, a financial attribute aspect or both.
32. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
 - ranking the holdings of the background portfolio and the holding that is to be evaluated based upon the group scores that were assigned to each holdings; and
 - generating a group positional score for each holding, wherein a holding's group positional score is based upon that holding's group score ranking.
33. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
 - establishing an evaluation metric positional score threshold; and
 - identifying whether the holding that is to be evaluated has an evaluation metric positional score that falls below the evaluation metric positional score threshold.
34. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
 - establishing an overall score threshold; and
 - identifying whether the holding that is to be evaluated has an overall score that falls below the overall score threshold.
35. The method of claim 22, wherein one financial metric is indicative of a holding's cumulative economic profit over a given period of time.
36. The method of claim 35, wherein the cumulative economic profit financial metric accounts for any special charges that a holding may have taken during the given period of time.

37. The method of claim 22, wherein the financial metrics include a series of financial metrics that when aggregated together are equal to a holding's total shareholders equity at a given point in time.
38. The method of claim 37, the method for comprising presenting a chart that displays at least one of the series of financial metrics for a holding in comparison to the holding's total shareholders equity.
39. The method of claim 22, wherein the financial metrics include a plurality of financial metrics that dissect a holding's total shareholders equity at a given point in time into an organic shareholders equity financial metric and an unearned shareholders equity financial metric.
40. The method of claim 39, wherein the organic shareholders equity financial metric reflects all of the business activities of the holding less cumulative dividends declared over the holding's life less net capital raised from a sale or redemption of the holding's stock.
41. The method of claim 22, wherein one financial metric is capable of determining an amount of cash that a holding would have had available at an end of a time interval had the holding had no change in a level of total debt and had received no net cash from a sale or redemption of the holding's stock.